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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael D. Hillman et al.

Title: CORDLESS BLIND

Appl. No.: 09/724,279

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Examiner: To Be Determined

Art Unit: 3634

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.

Deborah Kororowski

(Printed Name)

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(Signature)

08-21-01

(Date of Deposit)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The references listed on the PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith were cited in an opposition filed in European Patent Application No. EP95250075.9 (which cited priority to U.S. Patent No. 5,531,257, USSN 08/303,773). This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is intended to clearly inform the PTO of the opposition so that the PTO can intelligently evaluate the need for asking for further materials in the opposition. See MPEP Section 2001.06(c).

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action

which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language document has not been provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed

herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/21/01

By Scott D. Anderson

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